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EXAMINER

LUONG, ALAN H

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,949	Applicant(s) LIANG, KAI-CHIEH	
	Examiner ALAN LUONG	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,20-26,31-40 and 45-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,20-26,31-40 and 45-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The art unit is changed into 2623.

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on April 07, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **1, 6-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (Hereafter, APA), US Pub. 2005/0081143 by Kai-Chieh Liang ; in view of Carsten Herpel (hereafter, Herpel), "Elementary Stream Management in MPEG-4" published in IEEE, March 1999; further in view of European Patent Application No. EP 1045564 A1 published by WAKI et al..

Regarding to claim 1: Fig. 1 of APA illustrates "a uniform resource indicator (URI) pointer method for the retrieving Moving Picture Experts Group 4 (MPEG-4) data pointers in a Moving Picture Experts Group 2 (MPEG-2) transport stream (TS) (**APA, ¶0015**), the method comprising: "MPEG-4 resources" consist of [IOD], which contains ES Descriptors for BIFS scene , Object descriptor streams, etc " received from an MPEG-2 TS embedded with MPEG-4 resources organized in Object Carousel (OC) transport protocol [DSM-CC User-User]" (**APA, ¶0006 to ¶0015**); and conventional

retrieving MPEG-4 resources (as [BIFS] stream or scene and Object Descriptor stream). Moreover; ES_Descriptor which contains “ a URI in the TS using a local identifier (lid) retrieved from the MPEG-2 TS”, [the Object Descriptor Stream] and compose the BIFS scene using the retrieved BIFS stream(**¶0016 to ¶0025**). However, APA is deficient with “retrieving MPEG-4 resources from the MPEG-2 TS using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC; and decoding the MPEG-4 resources.”

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from retrieving MPEG-4 resources from the MPEG-2 Transport Stream. Herpel teaches encapsulating “MPEG-4 streams in the Moving Picture Coding Expert Group 2 (MPEG-2) transport stream” by FlexMux Stream Encapsulation wherein the FlexMux Stream can be mapped to a MPEG-2 PID in DSM-CC of MPEG-2 protocol that identifies “MPEG-4 resources in response to accessing the address of URL” (**Section IV-C:Transport in MPEG-2 TS, 2 and 3, pages 321 to 322**) and Fig. 6 of Herpel illustrates a system decoder to “decode the MPEG-4 resources” (**Section III_A The System Decoder Model, page 319 to 320**). Finally, Herpel teaches “access MPEG-4 content scheme to the objects in the OC” (**Section V: Accessing MPEG-4, page 323-324**) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention of the application was made to modify a method of transport conventional MPEG-4 in MPEG-2 TS of APA with the MPEG-4 system decoder model as taught by Herpel; in order to develop the transport encapsulation MPEG-4 streams in the MPEG-2 Transport Stream in real-time digital broadcast.

However, APA and Herpel fail to teach “using lid URIs provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC”

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from using lid URIs provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC”. Waki, the same endeavor, teaches in Object Carousel system includes using an Object Carousel transport protocol (**Waki, ¶0006- ¶0010**); and Fig. 31 of Waki shows Object Locations as "using lid URIs" [identifier IOR](**¶0017- ¶0019**) “to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC “(**Figs. 4, 5, 21, 22, 28, ¶0132, ¶0136 - ¶0141**). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention of the application was made to modify a method of transport conventional MPEG-4 in MPEG-2 TS of APA and the MPEG-4 system decoder model as taught by Herpel with the Object carousel transmission method as taught by Waki, in order to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the Object Carousel.

Regarding to claim 6: The method of claim 1; APA, Herpel and Waki teach wherein using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC; APA also teaches “using a lid URI embedded in an Initial Object Descriptor (IOD) to locate resources in the OC selected from the group including a Binary Format for Scenes (BIFS) scene description stream and an object descriptor stream” (**¶0016 to ¶0020**).

Regarding to claims 7, 8: In the method of claim 1 above, Waki also teaches wherein using an Object Carousel transport protocol (**Waki, ¶0008 - ¶0010**) includes forming a hierarchical directory structure including a root directory, sub-directories, files, and streams. (**FIGs. 28, 29 and ¶0013, ¶0023-¶0045**).

Regarding to claim 9: In the method of claim 1 above, Fig. 1 of APA illustrates “an MPEG-2 TS includes initial object descriptor IOD which contains ES_Descriptor 1 as “a first MPEG-2 TS” and ES_Descriptor 2 as” a second MPEG-2 TS; “wherein locating a URI in the TS” [ES-ID 1 or URL] for BIFS scene;” includes retrieving a lid URI in the first MPEG-2 TS embedded with Moving Picture Coding Expert Group 4 (MPEG-4) resources”[BIFS scene], and, wherein retrieving MPEG-4 resources [Audio source] in response to accessing the lid URI [OD-ID6] includes retrieving MPEG-4 resources [OD 6] from the second MPEG-2 TS [Object Descriptor stream] respectively; “wherein locating a URI includes using lid URIs retrieved from the MPEG-2 TS” [ES-ID 1 or URL] for BIFS scene descriptor stream and [ES-ID 2 or URL] for Object descriptor stream, (see **APA , ¶0003-¶0025**)

Regarding to claim 10: APA and Herpel teach the retrieving MPEG-4 resources in response to accessing the address as claim 1 above; APA also teach Moving Picture Coding Expert Group 4 (MPEG-4) resources selected from the group including audio, video, and systems data. (MPEG-4 contents consist of an initial object descriptor and a variable number of streams, such as object descriptor stream, scene description streams, audio streams, video streams, IPMP streams, etc. (**See APA, ¶0007**).

Regarding to claim 11: In the claim 1, Herpel teaches “decoding the MPEG-4 resources” but is silent with “an action selected from the group including enhancing audio data in the MPEG-2 TS, enhancing video data in the MPEG-2 TS; and using the systems data to establish an interactive audiovisual scene”. However, APA also teaches “including enhancing audio data in the MPEG-2 TS, enhancing video data in the MPEG-2 TS; and using the systems data to establish an interactive audiovisual scene”; MPEG-4 provides better compression efficiency than MPEG-2 and new features such as audiovisual interactivities and communication link.(See APA, ¶0005).

Regarding to claims 12 and 13: Claims 12, 13 are rejected under the same rational set forth above to claims 7 and 8.

Regarding to claim 14: Claim 14 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 11.

3. Claims **15, 20-39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (Hereafter, APA); Carsten Herpel (hereafter, Herpel), “Elementary Stream Management in MPEG-4” published in IEEE, March 1999; and EP 1045564 A1 published by WAKI et al.; in view of US 2002/0124263 by Yoshikazu Yokomizo (hereafter, Yokomizo)

Regarding to claim 15: Fig. 1 of APA illustrates “a conventional uniform resource indicator (URI) pointer method for broadcasting pointers to Moving Picture Experts Group 4 (MPEG-4) data in Moving Picture Experts Group 2 (MPEG-2) transport stream (TS), the method comprises embedding MPEG-4 resources in the MPEG-2 TS,

organized in an Object Carousel (OC) transport protocol “, Herpel also teaches “generating a local identifier (lid) URI for accessing MPEG-4 resources, and finally Waki further teaches” using the lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC” (see claim 1 rejection).

However, APA, Herpel and Waki are silent with” embedding the URI in an MPEG-2 TS; and broadcasting the MPEG-2 TS”.

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from embedding the URI in an MPEG-2 TS; and broadcasting the MPEG-2 TS.

Fig. 1 of Yokomizo illustrates the interactive DTV broadcast system that the object descriptor can be designated by BIFS (MPEG-4 profile) and the object can be transmitted as the object descriptor ID by “embedding the URI in an MPEG-2 TS for transporting MPEG-4 data in an MPEG-2 transport stream (TS) in “broadcast MPEG-2 TS” as Digital broadcast signal.(**FIG. 1, ¶0030-¶0034**). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention of the application was made to modify the URL pointer method of APA, Herpel and Waki with embedding the URI in an MPEG-2 TS as taught by Yokomozo’s in order to transport MPEG-4 contents in the MPEG-2 Transport Stream in Digital broadcast signal.

Regarding to claim 20: The method of claim 15, Waki also teaches in Object Carousel system includes using an Object Carousel transport protocol; wherein using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC (**Figs. 4, 5, 21, 22, 28, ¶0132, ¶0136 to ¶0141**).

Regarding to claims 21, 22: The method of claim 15, Waki further teaches wherein using an Object Carousel transport protocol (§0008 - §0010) includes forming a hierarchical directory structure including a root directory, sub-directories, files, and streams.(**Figs. 28, 29 and §0013, §0023-§0045**).

Regarding to claim 23: Claim 23 is rejected as combination of claims 9 and 15.

Regarding to claim 24: In claim 15 above, APA also teaches MPEG-4 content including audio, video, and systems data. (MPEG-4 contents consist of an initial object descriptor and a variable number of streams, such as object descriptor stream, scene description streams, audio streams, video streams, IPMP streams, etc. (**see APA, §0007**).

Regarding to claim 25: In the retrieving MPEG-4 resources in claim 15 above, Yokomizo also teaches “wherein decoding the MPEG-4 resources includes an action selected from the group including enhancing audio data in the MPEG-2 TS, enhancing video data in the MPEG-2 TS ; (**Yokomizo ,§0031**) and Fig. 1 of Yokomizo illustrates a communication link (**Yokomizo ,§0030**).Additionally, APA also teaches” the systems data to establish an interactive audiovisual scene “(**APA, §0005**),

Regarding to claim 26: Claim 26 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 1.

Regarding to claim 31: Claim31 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 6.

Regarding to claims 32, 33: Claims 32, 33 are rejected under the same rational set forth above to claims 7 and 8.

Regarding to claim 34: Claim 34 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 9.

Regarding to claim 35: Claims 35 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 10.

Regarding to claim 36: Claim 36 is rejected under the same rational set forth above to claim 11.

Regarding to claims 37, 38: The system of claim 26, Waki discloses “a cache mechanism for storing” the data from reception apparatus receives a file system having “ the OC hierarchical directory” (**¶0010, ¶0031 to ¶0042, ¶0046 and FIG. 34**).

Regarding to claim 39: Fig. 8A of Yokomizo shows “the transmitter [107] in the iSTB (4 of Fig. 1) in the Interactive Digital TV communication link (FIG. 1) for transmitting MPEG-4 BIFS along with MPEG-2 transport stream and FIG. 9A shows a receiver structure in order to receive MPEG-2 (containing MPEG-4 streams) digital broadcast signal and decode MPEG-4 systems data in MPEG-4 decoder (207 of FIG. 9A)(see **FIGs. 1, 8A, 9A and ¶0030-¶0034, ¶0115, ¶0119, ¶0120**).

4. Claims **40, 46-50** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA and US Pub. No. 2002/0124263 A1 published by Yokomizo, in view of US Patent No. 6,377,309 B1 issued to Masamichi Ito et al.(Hereafter Ito)

Regarding to claim 40 APA discloses the conventional MPEG-4 resources in a MPEG-2 TS using an Object Carousal (OC) transport protocol (see discussion in claim 1). Figs. 8A, 8B of Yokomizo illustrates an MPEG-4 broadcaster [1 of Fig. 1] contains a uniform resource identifier (URI) pointer system (General Database contains URL addresses) [106] generating a local identifier (lid) URI for accessing the MPEG-4 resources {BIFS} from Web servers for supplying data information in the MPEG-2 TS using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme [in 106] to the objects in the OC, Database [106] holds URL of Web servers as “an address pointer unit having an interface” data base [105] to supply an MPEG-2 TS with URIs ”to accept the encoded MPEG-4 resources [BIFS], the address pointer embedding the encoded MPEG-4 resources in a MPEG-2 TS using an Object Carousal (OC) transport protocol. (see Yokomizo, ¶0115 - ¶0117) and Set top box [4 of Fig. 1] includes “a transmitter [107] having an interface (designation unit), [103] as a mouse or keyboard “to accept the MPEG-2 TS” inputs from the address pointer unit (Data Base [106]) and to broadcast the MPEG-2 TS (MPEG-2 TS with BIFS outputs the data via an antenna to satellite. (FIG. 8A and ¶0115).

However, Yokomizo reference is silent with “an encoder having an interface to accept MPEG-4 information and to supply encoded MPEG-4 resources-

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from the MPEG-4 encoder. Fig. 2 of Ito illustrates “an encoder system includes encoders [5001, 5002, 5003, 5004 and 5005] which have an interface to accept MPEG-4 information” from sound, photo image, synthetic image, character and scene

configuration information, respectively . The encoded object information and scene description information undergo an encode process to an MPEG4 bit stream by a data multiplexer [5006] "to supply encoded MPEG-4 resources" (see Ito, col. 3 line 41-51) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention of the application was made to modify the APA and method of Yokomizo including the MPEG-4 encoding process as taught by Ito, in order to provide the method of reproducing MPEG-4 data from MPEG-2 TS in digital TV broadcast.

Regarding to claim 45: In the system of claim 40, Fig. 1 of APA illustrates discloses the address pointer unit uses a lid URI embedded in an Initial Object Descriptor (IOD) to locate resources in the OC selected from the group including a BIFS scene description stream and an object descriptor stream (**APA, ¶0016-¶0025**).

Regarding to claims 46, 47: The method of claim 40 above, Fig. 21 of Ito illustrates " the address pointer unit forms an OC system and OC transport protocol hierarchical directory structure including a root directory(MPEG-2 TS stream), sub-directories (transport packet), files (Adaptation field), and streams (MPEG-4) (see **FIG. 21,col.16 line 60 to col. 17 line 33**). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention of the application was made to combine the Object carousel transport protocol as taught by Waki into the method of Yokomizo, in order to provide hierarchical directory structure in the Object Carousel transmission method.

Regarding to claim 48: In the system of claim 40 above, Fig. 21 of Ito shows "the address pointer unit forms a lid URI in a first MPEG-2 TS (PID) and embeds

MPEG-4 resources in a second MPEG-2 TS (Objects A,B, C...) and, wherein the transmitter broadcasts the first and second MPEG-2 TSs (**see Ito, col.16 line 60 to col. 17 line 33**).

Regarding to claim 49: In the system of claim 40, Ito further teaches the MPEG-4 resources selected from the group including audio, video, and systems data. (Ito, **col. 3 line 64 to col. 4 line 28**).

Regarding to claim 50: Yokomizo discloses systems data for the establishment of an interactive audiovisual scene and communication link in claim 40 above (**FIG. 1, ¶0030-¶0034**). Ito also teaches the Object Coding method (**col. 4 line 29 to col. 5 line12**); Figs. 20 and 21 of Ito illustrate enhanced MPEG-4 audio data in the MPEG-2 TS (object C) and enhanced MPEG-4 video data in the MPEG-2 TS(Objects A and B) (**see FIGs 20, 21 col. 16 line 47 to col. 17 line 33**).

Response to Arguments

5. Claims 2-5, 16-19, 27-30 and 41-44 are cancelled.
6. Fig. 4 is corrected. Objection is withdrawn.
7. Double Patenting rejection has been withdrawn because the Terminal Disclaimer has been filed.
8. Applicant's arguments filed April 07, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A. Applicant argues that the previously presented combination of references using Waki fails to teach or suggest the limitation of embedding MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 stream using an OC transport protocol and using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC, as recited in claims 1 and 26. (Remark, pages 18-19). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

APA teaches embedding MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 stream whereby MPEG-2 streams utilize OC transport protocols (**see APA, 0006**) and access information using URLs (**see APA, 0017**). However, APA fails to disclose MPEG-4 decoding method wherein MPEG-4 is decoded using lid URIs.

Waki is relied upon to teach using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC. As used within the specification a 'lid URI' is construed as "a lid URI may be embedded in an Initial Object Descriptor (IOD) to locate resources in the OC such as a binary format for scenes (BIFS) scene description stream and/or an object descriptor stream" (**see spec. para. 0032**)... . In Fig. 28, para[0136] of Waki; the IOR is used similarly in so far as it "The BIOP object references uses the Inter-operable Object Reference (IOR) format defined by the CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture) standard. Each IOR contains a BIOPProfileBody as defined in ISO/IEC 13818-6. It carries all the information pertaining to an object that is needed to uniquely identify the object and locate it within a Service Domain specified by an NSAP address." (**see spec. para [0063]**). Therefore, Waki is therefore considered to use lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the directory. When taken in combination with the teachings of APA, it is the examiner's

opinion that those of ordinary skill in the art would recognize its applicability to providing MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 TS using an OC transport protocol as claimed.

B. Applicant argues that there is insufficient motivation to combine the applied references with Waki (Remark, page 19). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Applicant argues that there is the motivation of receiving files in an OC system directory structure is insufficient to modify APA and Herpel with Waki. An invention is unpatentable if the differences between it and the prior art would have been obvious at the time the invention was made. In the instant case, the examiner has relied upon the use of known techniques to improve similar devices in the same way in order to support the conclusion that it would have been obvious to modify the teachings of using conventional MPEG-2 based OC binding techniques (Waki) to a system that employs MPEG-2 TS and OCs to convey MPEG-4 data (APA and Herpel).

C. Applicant additionally argues that the previously presented combination of references using Yokomizo fails to teach or suggest the limitation of embedding MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 stream using an OC transport protocol and using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme to the objects in the OC, as recited in claim 40. (Remark, page 21). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

APA teaches embedding MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 stream whereby MPEG-2 streams utilize OC transport protocols (**see APA, 0006**) and access information using URLs (**see APA, 0017**). However, APA fails to disclose MPEG-4 decoding method wherein MPEG-4 is decoded using lid URIs.

Figs. 8A, 8B of Yokomizo illustrates an MPEG-4 broadcaster [1 of Fig. 1] contains a uniform resource identifier (URI) pointer system (General Database contains URL addresses) [106] generating a local identifier (lid) URI for accessing the MPEG-4 resources [BIFS] from Web servers for supplying data information in the MPEG-2 TS using lid URIs to provide a binding name and access scheme in Database [106] to the objects in the OC, Database [106] holds URL of Web servers as “an address pointer unit having an interface” data base [105] to supply information of an MPEG-2 TS associated with URIs (**see Yokomizo, ¶0115 - ¶0117**) When taken in combination with the teachings of APA, it is the examiner’s opinion that those of ordinary skill in the art would recognize its applicability to providing MPEG-4 resources in an MPEG-2 TS using an OC transport protocol as claimed.

D. Applicant argues that there is insufficient motivation to combine the applied references with Yokomizo (Remark, page 21). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Applicant argues that Yokomizo teaches away from the claimed combination because of its use of an HTTP protocol. As previously noted, the reference is considered to anticipate this limitation and therefore the question of it teaching away is inapplicable. See MPEP 2131.05.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALAN LUONG whose telephone number is (571)270-5091. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs., 8:00am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2623
June 28, 2008

/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623